

VV ESA833

RUESBA

RUESAS 2331 1561748

NY CCCCC ZZH

041730Z JUN 76

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

RUERHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7571

INFO RUESBA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 3126

RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY 0660

RUESDO/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY 0975

UFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

ASUNCION 2331

.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: SREF, PA

UBJ: PARAGUAYAN REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

EF: STATE 136607

TO	ACT	INF	TO	ACT	INF
AMB		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DAO		
DCM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	L CATY		
			CEA		
POL	3		FAS		
ECOM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AID		
PO/IR		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MILGP		
CO S		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PEI		
ADM			GSO		
USIS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B & F		
SCI			CHRON		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SY			HF		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. EMBASSY CAN NOT ESTIMATE HOW MANY OF THE APPROXIMATELY 500,000 PARAGUAYANS LIVING IN ARGENTINA COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS POLITICAL REFUGEES BUT THE VAST MAJORITY EMIGRATED FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. MOST OF THOSE WHO WERE EXILED OR FLED PARAGUAY FOR POLITICAL REASONS DID SO IN THE LATE 1950S AND EARLY 60S. SINCE THEN THIS PRACTICE HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED.

2. THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THESE "REFUGEES" RANGES OVER THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM: THEIR COMMON DENOMINATOR IS BEING ANTI-STROESSNER. MANY ARE DISSIDENTS FROM THE RULING COLORADO PARTY ITSELF. THERE ARE ALSO SOME COMMUNISTS AND ACTIVE TERRORISTS AMONG THEM. SOME PARAGUAYANS WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN A TERRORIST SKYJACKING INCIDENT IN THE ARGENTINE BORDER TOWN OF FORMOSA LAST YEAR, AND A RECENT PRESS REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES SAID SEVERAL PARAGUAYAN NATIONALS HAVE BEEN SHOT BY ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES IN ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIONS IN THAT CITY.

3. MOST PARAGUAYAN POLITICAL EXILES ARE ARGENTINE RESIDENTS OF LONG STANDING, OFTEN AS MUCH AS TWENTY YEARS. THEY HAVE SETTLED THERE PERMANENTLY AND THEIR PRESENCE HAS BEEN TOLERATED BY SUCCESSIVE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENTS. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THE PARAGUAYAN REFUGEE COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA IS IN ANY PARTICULAR DANGER NOW FROM THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO EMBARRASS THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT OR FROM ANY OTHER QUARTER. OF COURSE IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THEM COULD BE THE OBJECT OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, BUT SINCE NONE IS WELL KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY, WE CONSIDER THIS UNLIKELY. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED TO PAROLE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE, WHO NOW HAVE LIVED IN ARGENTINA FOR ONE OR TWO DECADES, INTO THE UNITED STATES.

PROJECT (S20000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

UNCLASSIFIED

80E178

21/185